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Saturday	Sunday	High:36 Low:17

High:42  
Low:19

FRIDAY

# Fort Riley Post



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## 1008th Quartermaster challenges OPFOR

**By Jamie Bender**  
*Staff writer*

Soldiers from the 1008th Quartermaster Battalion spent a few days in the field at Fort Riley during a Field Training Exercise in preparation for deployment.

The soldiers established a worksite and defended it against several Opposing Forces (OPFOR) team attacks.

"This is one of the most realistic training areas that these soldiers can be exposed to," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Mallory, 3rd Battalion, 383rd Regiment, St. Louis, Mo. "The only thing better would be the National Training Command or the Joint Readiness Training Center."

See Quartermaster Page 3



Soldiers from the 1008th Quartermaster Battalion guard their perimeter during a recent field training exercise.



A soldier from the 1008th Quartermaster unit guides a helicopter for a medical evacuation mission during a training exercise on Fort Riley.

## Security important for safety of troops

**Staff Reports**

Violations of Operational Security can result in criminal prosecution, according to Maj. Mark Holycross, chief, Military Justice, Fort Riley.

This is true whether the information disclosed is classified or unclassified. Soldiers and civilians can be prosecuted for violations of OPSEC.

Government information, whether classified or unclassified, should not be disclosed to persons without an official need to know, Holycross said. The most frequent violation involves the unnecessary disclosure of unclassified work-related information to individuals who simply do not need to know the information.

This involves things such as: number or names of personnel, unit readiness, capabilities, strengths and weaknesses of weapons systems or other equipment and deployment and movement schedules and routes, said Holycross.

The process for criminal prosecution, whether through military courts-martial or federal court, generally involves an investigation, leading to an indictment or referral of charges, a trial, sentencing and finally punishment and appeal, Holycross said.

Potential disciplinary action

See OPSEC Page 2

## Training Support unit's mission to help soldiers prepare

**By Jamie Bender**  
*Staff writer*

The 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support) has called up reservists from three training support battalions to help prepare other reservists who are being deployed to Central Command locations.

More than 300 soldiers from the 383rd Regiment, with battalions located in Des Moines, Iowa, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and St. Louis, Mo., arrived at Fort Riley earlier this month.

The primary mission of Training Support Battalions is to mobilize Reserve Component forces from the Army National Guard and the Army Reserves.

"This is part of Training Support 21, which was developed soon after Desert Storm," said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, command sergeant major, 3rd Brigade, 75th Div. (TS). "It provided an asset to the Guard and Reserves to assist them in preparing themselves for war. With only 38 days or so a year to train, it was believed by our leadership that units like ours needed to be developed to help them throughout peacetime to prepare for war."

The process starts at the first phase of mobilization.

"When a unit is alerted, those (Training Support) battalions send unit assistants to the units to assist them in preparations for mobilization," said "We use the Forces Command standard guidebook and follow pre-established checklists. We work with the unit through the steps assisting them to reach their goals. We provide them with support and advice and mentor them for mobilizations. For some units, it may be the first mobilization in quite some time. Other units have been mobilized several times. Some have just come off missions guarding airports or other facilities as directed by the Department Of Defense."

The next phase is the mobilization phase, when the units form at their home stations. "The troops are gathered together, and after some administrative work, they load up their gear and they come to a mobilization station. For (this area), it's Fort Riley," said Elder.

Once at Fort Riley, the work continues. "We help them by developing training plans and by checking the condition of their equipment," said Elder. "We also help them prepare their records."

Training plans are developed for the soldiers based on the mission the unit will be performing during their deployment.

"In the cases where we know where the unit is deploying to, the theater commanders have specific requirements that they expect the soldiers to be able to perform," said Elder. "In some cases, it's Common Task Training. Sometimes it's weapons qualification. Sometimes it's collective training that enhances the units' ability to perform its tasks."

Once the steps are completed, the units are validated for mobilization.

"The installation (Fort Riley) validates those units and they go on to whatever destination they are going to," said Elder. The soldiers that leave from Fort Riley will be deployed all over the world for different missions.

"We are sending soldiers to multiple places," said Elder. "Some are supporting

See Training Page 2

## Soldiers hone drown-proofing skills as part of annual training

**By William Biles**  
*Staff Writer*

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, were at Eyster Pool Sunday to perform the unit's annual drown-proofing training. The training was meant to ensure that the soldiers are capable of saving their own lives if they find themselves in water over their head.

"Through a variety of tasks, we are making sure that our soldiers can survive in the water," said Sgt. Maj. Sheldon Parks, S3, 1st Bn., 34th Armor. "This will help with our deployment readiness by making sure we are prepared for any situation . . .," he said.

The day's training had the soldiers perform tasks at four different stations. The soldiers were given a briefing about the requirements for being able to succeed at each station.

At the first station, the soldiers did a 50-meter swim. The soldiers had to swim the 50 meters without touching the sides or the bottom of the pool.

According to the briefing the troops received at the 50-meter swim station, the soldiers were to be watched closely by their chain-of-command as they swam the 50 meters.

"Any soldiers who have trouble swimming or show signs of being a weak swimmer will be given special instructions on how to swim properly," Parks said.

The second station had the soldiers treading water for five minutes while holding a mock M16A1 rifle.

The soldiers had to stay afloat, with their rifle in hand, and were not allowed to hold on to the side of the pool, nor were they allowed to touch the bottom of the pool at any time during those five minutes.

At the third station, the soldiers were taught how to make their Battle Dress Uniform into a flotation device.

After this block of instruction, the soldiers had to jump in the pool and remove their trousers while treading water. After the trousers were removed, they had to tie the legs together and fill them with air.

They were able to fill them with air by thrusting the pants into the water while holding them by the waist opening. The thrusting caused air to get caught inside the pants.

After the pants were inflated, it was just a matter of putting their heads between the legs of the device while holding the waist closed.

"I love this training," said Pvt. John Abel, Company A, 1st Bn., 34th Armor.

"I've learned a lot today. I didn't realize how much air our BDUs were able to hold. Plus, it's good physical training, too."

The training's fourth station was a platform jump where soldiers had to jump in the water properly while wearing their BDUs and their Load Bearing Equipment.

Although Eyster Pool doesn't have a platform to jump from, the soldiers were shown how to enter the water as if there was one.

Once in the water, they had to surface and remove their LBE. After they got rid of the LBE, they had to swim to the pool's ladder and exit the pool.

Sunday's training benefited both the unit and its soldiers.

"This is good training," said Sgt. Brandon French, Company A, 1st Bn., 34th Armor. "A lot of our people don't know how to swim, and this training helps give them the fundamentals to learn."

Water safety training for tankers might seem odd to some people, but it gives the unit another learning tool to assess the troops' readiness.

"This training will help enhance our individual skills," Parks said.

"As tankers we don't get to do this that often. You can say we are like a fish out of water here, so this will give us more tools for our toolbox," he said.



Sgt. Jason Osterson, Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, flips his Battle Dress Uniform trousers over his head in an attempt to catch air inside to make a flotation device during his unit's annual drown-proofing class at Eyster Pool.





# Prescribed burns encourage new growth on prairies, minimize insects

## Staff Reports

"Each year, the Fort Riley Fire Department performs controlled burns throughout the installation to minimize risks associated with prairie fires," said John Boyd, fire chief, Fort Riley Fire Department. These controlled burns eliminate the heavy accumulation of dried undergrowth that supports wild fires and encourages growth of new surface vegetation. The burns also have the added advantage of minimizing insect and rodent

habitat reducing their impact on the housing areas, he said.

All controlled burns are carefully planned and coordinated with the Directorate of Environment and Safety, Public Works, the Fire Department, Range Control and the Provost Marshal Office to ensure each activity is prepared to assist in controlling the fire and are ready to respond to any related inquiries or requests for assistance. This year, Kansas has had one of the driest winters on record, and Fort Riley has had

over 30 brush fires as a result of this abnormally dry weather, Boyd said. Controlled burning will reduce the potential for an uncontrolled wildfire in the cantonment and housing areas, he said.

"During the months of March and April, controlled burns are planned for the Custer Hill area," Boyd said. This year the Installation needs to remove the accumulation of dried undergrowth around the hill in Training Area 4, located south of Ellis Heights,

Morris Hill School and Fort Riley Middle School, he said. "The controlled burn will occur near the Ellis Heights housing areas, but it will not pose any danger to housing residents," said Lt. Col. Wesley Anderson, director, Public Works.

Smoke from the fires can be a problem for adults and children with asthma or other respiratory ailments. "Residents can minimize or prevent problems by closing all windows and doors allowing the heating/cooling system to

filter the interior air," Anderson said.

The controlled burn will occur during school hours, as it minimizes the number of children who are outside, he said. "The Fire Department coordinates the controlled burn plan with all of the Post's schools, so they can assist in keeping children away from the fire," Boyd said. The Fire Department and the Conservation Division will also place firefighters in areas between the Training Area and Ellis Heights to prevent the fire from entering the housing areas or schools.

"Please rest assured that the installation will take all precautions to ensure everyone's safety," Anderson said. "We will post signs on roads to warn all drivers

before they enter an area that may be impacted by smoke so that they can take appropriate precautions, such as slowing down and turning on their lights." Residents may wonder when the burns will be done.

"Since wind speed and direction determine when we are able to control burn, we cannot provide specific dates at this time," Boyd said.

But Anderson assures everyone, "We will use Channel 2 to notify residents when we plan on burning near the housing areas."

Any residents who have questions or concerns about any burning activity in their area can call the Fort Riley Fire Department, 239-4257, and ask for the on-duty supervisor.



DES/Salem

The area on the left has not been managed with prescribed burns, and the area on the right has been burned.

## Training

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operations that are ongoing in response to Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom. We are sending folks to Kosovo and Bosnia in support of the Stabilization Force mission. Each unit is different in the responsibilities that we have to provide for training or oversight."

The soldiers from the 383rd Regiment will be at Fort Riley for up to one year, said Elder.

"They will be here at Fort Riley, until the mission is done. The mobilizations decide our tempo and our pace and how long we are doing this for."

These soldiers are citizen soldiers called to do what they have trained for, just as the soldiers they assist have been.

"Many have been taken away from their careers," said Elder. "They leave behind families,

employers, communities and schools. It takes a special person to balance that."

These soldiers have been preparing for this mission for many years, said Elder.

"They are skilled at what they do. They are confident and proud and pleased to be able to do their part in the mission of our nation."

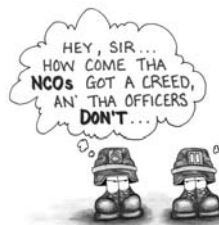
Fort Riley is a great installation to mobilize soldiers from, said

Elder.

"Fort Riley is a great place for training. We have the support of the garrison commander and his staff. I hope the Army notices the importance of Fort Riley as a power projection platform and expands on the capability that we are able to provide. It's a great tribute to Fort Riley, being able to pull this mission off and able to do it smoothly."

## Grunt

By Wayne Uhden



## OPSEC

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depends on the seriousness of the OPSEC violation and the status of the violator, he said.

Disclosure of information could result in criminal prosecution, in either a military court-martial (military violators) or federal court (military or civilian violators).

"If the disclosure is intentional and amounts to espionage, it could result in a very serious penalty, including the possibility of death. If a soldier or civilian discloses information which he or she knows or should know was not supposed to be disclosed, the person may be subject to criminal prosecution," according to Holycross.

All violations of OPSEC, by either military or civilian person-

nel, could result in administrative disciplinary action, depending on the circumstances of the disclosure, he said. It could also lead to an individual losing his security clearance, he added.

"When someone witnesses or has knowledge of a violation of OPSEC, the person should report it to law enforcement, up the chain of command or to the G2 or S2," he said.

"Ultimately, it is not just about punishing the wrongdoer," Holycross said.

Holycross stated that, "Violation of OPSEC can result in mission failure and endangering our fellow soldiers and citizens."

People die because of violations of OPSEC. It should be taken very seriously."

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## Preparation, caution essential for improving personal security

By Nicole Matlick  
PAO

Criminals know very well that we are all creatures of habit, and they will exploit those habits to commit both violent and non-violent crimes against you. It's a simple concept to the criminal, when you become habitual in your day-to-day routines and lifestyle, you also become predictable. When you become predictable, you stand a much greater chance of becoming a victim.

The first and most important item to put into effect is Prevention. Many of the following suggestions seem to be common sense, but are ignored by many. In most cases you are in control of the circumstances in which you place yourself. Just by being aware that you are a potential victim of a personal crime is the first step toward prevention.

Probably the least expensive measure you can take to protect yourself against crime is to incorporate "security conscious" habits into your daily routine and lifestyle that make you and your family less vulnerable. The best prevention is Prevention. A basic rule is to stay alert to your surroundings. Trust your instincts.

**Safety Tips While Driving**

- \* Never pick up hitchhikers.
- \* Keep car doors locked at all times.

- \* Before leaving your house or the store to go to your car, look around and be aware of what is going on.
- \* Always have your keys ready to unlock the door so you can

enter without delay.

- \* As you are entering your car, look into the back seat.
- \* Always have at least half a tank of gas in your car.
- \* Keep your vehicle in good shape.

- \* Travel on well-lighted streets and avoid taking short cuts.
- \* If you are followed, drive to the nearest open business for help or drive to the police or fire department. Never go home while being followed.

- \* Park in areas that will be well lighted when you return to your car.
- \* Don't leave your house keys with your car when having your car serviced.

- \* Women driving alone should never stop to aid a stranger in a stalled car. Proceed to an open business and report the car to the police.
- \* If you have car trouble, raise the hood, then stay in your car. When someone offers assistance, do not roll the window down. Talk to them through the window and ask them to call someone for you. Never go with a stranger.

- \* Notify your family and friends of your travel plans.
- \* **Safety Tips While Walking**
- \* Avoid walking alone. Walk with someone or where other people are near.

- \* Stay in well lighted areas, away from alleys, bushes and entry ways. Avoid shortcuts through parks, vacant lots and other deserted areas.
- \* Don't hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.
- \* If a car pulls along beside you

and the driver calls you over to ask a question, avoid getting near the car.

- \* If you are followed, go to the nearest business for help. Turn around and walk in the other direction. This will force the driver to turn around to follow you.
- \* Avoid carrying extra money or valuables on your person. If you must carry a purse, keep it close, don't dangle it. Don't put the purse strap around your neck, it's better for the thief to get the purse than for you to be injured trying to protect it.
- \* Remember to be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
- \* Don't walk alone, especially at night. Your vulnerability to street crime is reduced as much as 70 percent by simply being in a group.

**Safety tips for your home**

The Fort Riley Military Police offer a voluntary home security program for residents of Fort Riley. Residents can sign up for House watch when they go on leave or other times when their quarters will be vacant. The Military Police will conduct daily after hour physical checks of the quarters as a crime prevention effort. Call the Physical Security Office, Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 239-6344 or 239-6342, a few days before you depart. Emergency house watches can be left on the recorder during evening hours or on the weekend.

The Fort Riley Military Police ask you to stay alert, trust your instincts and take responsibility for your own safety and security.

## Talk Around Town

### "What is your experience with Family Support Groups?"



**"I do not have experience with a support group. However, once my husband is gone, I will rely on my close family, such as son and parents for support."**

Jessica Sharpe  
Military Spouse 70th  
Engineer Battalion



**"I've used them in the past and they worked out fine. My husband had an emergency and we got information through the chain quickly using the support group. I plan on using them again."**

Denise Joyner  
Military Spouse  
70th Engineer Battalion



**"I do not have much experience with support groups, but in the future I will depend on my Army family first for support because we understand what each other is going through."**

Bridgette Todisman  
Military Spouse  
70th Engineer Battalion

### Reduce your chances of being a victim of auto theft by following these tips:

Never hide a spare key on the vehicle.

Roll up windows completely.

Park in well lighted areas.

Park as close as possible to an open business.

Do not leave valuables in sight to tempt a thief.

If you have a garage, use it and lock your garage door.

Never leave your car running while it is unattended.

## PAO wins awards at FORSCOM

By Michael Watson  
Staff writer

The Keith L. Ware awards for excellence in Army journalism results for Forces Command are in and Fort Riley won more first place finishes than any other FORSCOM installation. The office received eight.

Maj. (P) Todd Livick, Public Affairs Office, said the driving force behind our success is the civilian expertise in the office.

He said their coaching and mentoring to him and the young soldiers in the office has helped make Fort Riley PAO one of the best in the Army.

"We are an incredibly well rounded team that continues to set new standards, and we have a habit of always raising the bar. Our teamwork, professionalism, work ethic, dedication and discipline are a constant reminder to me of why I switched to Public Affairs," Livick said.

The awards were announced to the team on Feb. 21. As Livick read the results, a few of the staff members had their fingers crossed and their heads down in hope.

The first awards read were for broadcasting, where Scott Rhodes, producer of Fort Riley's television show, In Step with Fort Riley, won most of the awards. Rhodes came to Fort Riley from Channel 13 (WIBW), Topeka, about a year ago.

Rhodes said he was excited when he first heard the news. It was pretty hard to contain it, with everyone celebrating, he said.

"I didn't know what my expectations should be," he said. "You always figure there is someone out there who is better than you. But, it was cool to hear my name read in conjunction with two personal awards and two other big ones that I had a hand in."

"We are always trying to make the show better," he said. "We strive for excellence in telling the Fort Riley and Army stories. Our team continues to improve and as it does, our products improve. Rhodes said that the standards

at the Public Affairs Office are high.

"We try to 'raise the bar,' every week," said Rhodes. "I'm glad FORSCOM recognized our efforts."

Not only does Fort Riley have the civilian broadcast journalist of the year, but it also has the civilian journalist of the year. Christie Vanover, deputy media relations officer, won the honor for the fourth straight year.

Vanover also won multiple awards.

The first place awards from the FORSCOM competition will now compete in the Department of the Army competition. Vanover said she received honorable mention the last two years at DA, so this year her goal is to place.

"I don't believe I'm the best out there," she said. "My goal is just to do better than the year before. These are good writers that we are up against and I'm just thankful that I've been able to find stories at Fort Riley that have surpassed stories at other FORSCOM posts."

The DA awards will be judged March 5 and 6, and those results

will be announced on March 17.

**Print journalism awards**

Feature article: 2nd place, Vanover, "The Pentagon: Journey through Hell"

Sports article: 2nd place, Gary Skidmore, "Professional football comes to Junction City"

Art/graphics in support of a publication: 1st place, Vanover, "The Pentagon: Journey through Hell"

Web-based publications: 1st place, Fort Riley Post On-line

Rising star award for outstanding new writer: 3rd place, Pfc. Jamie Bender

Civilian journalist of the year: 1st place, Vanover

Special achievement in print media: 1st place, Fort Riley, "Special 9-11 commemorative issue"

**Broadcast journalism awards**

Television information program: 1st place, Fort Riley, "September 11 Special"

Local television newscast: 1st place, Fort Riley, In Step with Fort Riley

Television spot/promo production: 1st place, Scott Rhodes, "Open House Honor Guard"

Civilian broadcast journalist of the year: 1st place, Scott Rhodes

## Quartermaster continued from page 1

There were many other realistic situations the 1008th QM trained for, including Nuclear, Biological and Chemical training.

"For realism, every six hours [the Exercise Control Center] gave the soldiers a chemical downwind message. This is the direction and the speed of the

wind," said Mallery. "It's to help them prepare for a chemical attack."

As part of the NBC training, the soldiers also dealt with simulated NBC exposure.

"They practiced caring for exposure casualties and decontamination procedures," said Mallery.

The field training exercise that these soldiers experienced at Fort Riley was designed to build the their confidence and prepare them for possible real world situations.

"We want them to know what to do and be able to know that they can do it," said Mallery.

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# Briefs

## Legal Assistance Hours

The Legal Assistance Office has extended its hours. In addition to the current office hours, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the office will be open 4 - 8 p.m. On Saturday, the office will be open 8 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4p.m. The staff will be unable to do any wills during this time, but they will be able to assist you in nearly all of the other services that they normally provide and will have two attorneys available to see you. For more information, call 239-3117.

## Physician Assistant Recruiter

A U.S. Army Recruiting Command representative will visit Fort Riley March 12. He will give a briefing in Normandy Theater that day, 11 a.m. - noon, for all soldiers interested in training to become a physician assistant. It is recommended that as many Medical MOS soldiers as possible be sent to this briefing.

## Tax Center

The Fort Riley Tax center is open. The center is located at the Army Community Service and Family and Soldier Support Cen-

ter on Custer Hill, building 7264. The center's hours are: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 230-1040.

Fort Riley Tax Center is saying goodbye to a veteran volunteer, Frederick "Sandy" Hackett after eight years of service. Hackett is a retired Sergeant Major. He has acted as the primary appointment coordinator for the center and has assisted the staff over many years, ensuring a smooth operation. The Installation Tax Attorney, Capt. Alison Tulad, said, "We will miss Sandy enormously. He has been a grounding force in ensuring tax preparation assistance to the Fort Riley soldiers over many years. He is irreplaceable."

The Tax Center staff have presented Sandy with a plaque to commemorate his many years of service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## Primary Care Clinics

Primary Care Clinics 1, 2 and 3 of Irwin Army Community Hospital have reopened their patient reception areas. Patients who have appointments in the Primary Care Clinics or are coming to the clinics for walk-in services are to report to their assigned Primary Care Clinic's reception area.

## CSM Selection

Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel E. Elder, 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (TS), has been selected as the Command Sergeant Major for 13th Corps Support Command, Fort Hood, Texas. Elder has served at Fort Riley since May 1999. Prior to his assignment at 3rd Brig., 75th Div., he served as the Command Sergeant Major for 541st Maintenance Battalion, 937th Engineer Group.

## IACH Injections

As of March 10, TRICARE Prime patients needing injections (routine immunizations, B12 injections or DepoProvera injections) will be sent to the IACH Immunization Walk-In Clinic located on the 1st floor in the Allergy/Well Baby hallway. Prime patients can be seen on a walk-in basis, with their medical records and immunization record, at the following times: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. On Tuesday, immunizations will be 1 - 3 p.m., and on Thursday, 8 - 11 a.m. Allergy shots will continue to be a by appointment only, except they will only be given on Tuesday mornings, 8 - 11 a.m. and Thursday afternoons, 1 - 3 p.m.

## Thrift Shop

Get ready for Spring cleaning! Clear out your clutter! Let the Fort Riley Thrift Shop help you get organized before the yard sale. Call us to pick any donations you have (in good condition). The Thrift Shop will begin taking Spring clothes on Tuesday. Bag Sales every Wednesday and Thursday - get as much as you can into a bag for only \$1!

Visit the Thrift Shop in building 267, Stuart Ave., 784-3874. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

## The Shoppe

Don't forget The Shoppe when you're looking for that one-of-a-kind gift. The Shoppe has many items that may be special-ordered

or personalized to meet your needs. The Shoppe is located in building 259, Stuart Ave., 239-2783. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday. The Shoppe accepts Visa & MasterCard (minimum of \$25 purchase) and offers gift certificates.

## Employment Readiness Program

The dates for the Employment Readiness Program Orientation/Intake are: March 4, 11, 18 and 25 and April 8, 15, 22 and 29. Pre-registration is required. The orientation is held from 9 a.m. - noon, Soldier Family Support Center, building 7264.

Attend the Orientation/Intake to get information on the Kansas job market and employment assistance available. Also, complete your enrollment for job search assistance. For more information, call the Employment Readiness Program, 239-9435.

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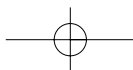
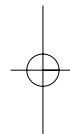
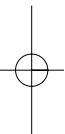
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## Retired Sergeant Major of the Army attends Audie Murphy inductions

By William Biles  
Staff Writer

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club held an Induction Ceremony for the newest members to be added to its ranks at Normandy Theater Feb. 20.

Nine noncommissioned officers, ranking from Staff Sgt. to Sgt. 1st Class, received the honor of being chosen the best the NCO corps has to offer.

"It's a very hard process to become a Sgt. Audie Murphy inductee," said Staff Sgt. Steve Newman, Sgt. Audie Murphy Club member and supply/logistics shop foreman, 24th Infantry Division. "Candidates are weeded out through attending a battalion board, a brigade board and then a post board."

The NCOs need to pass each board to reach the next one. Once they pass the brigade board, they are elected to go before the president of the Audie Murphy Club, Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Hear-ron, Command Sergeant Major, 24th Infantry Division and Fort Riley, during

the post board in order to become a member, said Newman.

"It's all preparation and finding time to study," said Staff Sgt. Adrian L. Patterson, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery. "It all starts with setting goals. I set a goal for myself to become a member of this club, and I didn't let anything stand in my way of achieving it."

The members of the SAMC wear their medals with pride. "There is no better honor to an NCO than to become a member of this club," Newman said. The award is given to NCOs who set the standard for excellence and leadership.

"I know I have to lead by example," said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Velasco, 331st Signal Company. "Being a part of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is an opportunity for me to be a mentor for my soldiers as my superiors have been a mentors for me."

According to the story of Audie Murphy, which was read at the ceremony, Murphy could very well be the last

American war hero. He was the greatest combat soldier in the history of the Army. Murphy enlisted in the Army in June 1942, and shortly after receiving his advanced individual training at Fort Meade, Md., was sent overseas where he was assigned to the 15th Infantry.

While overseas, Murphy spent some 400 days on the front lines and earned 33 military awards, citations and decorations, to include every American medal for valor.

He earned a battlefield commission for his courage and leadership abilities.

By the time Lt. Murphy was discharged from the Army, he was the highest decorated soldier in American history.

Before the story about Murphy was told, there was a tribute to the NCOs. During the tribute, soldiers dressed in the various styles of Army uniforms, dating from the Revolutionary War through to the present-day, appeared on stage when they were eulogized by the story's content.

When the induction ceremony began, soldiers who are under the inductee's

command introduced all the NCOs. One-by-one, the NCOs stood on stage at the position of attention, while their soldiers, with a tone of pride in their voices, introduced them to the seated audience. During the introduction, the soldiers stated what they liked most about their sergeants and said a few words as to some of the reasons that set them above the standard.

The NCOs who received the award were: Sgt. 1st Class Bradley S. Combs, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor; Sgt. 1st Class Antwan C. Nicholson, Medical Activity; Sgt. 1st Class Archie D. Smith, 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion; Sgt. 1st Class Anthony M. Velasco, 331st Signal Co.; Staff Sgt. Roland Cueller, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery; Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Griffin, 24th Transportation Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion; Staff Sgt. Adrian L. Patterson, Battery C, 1st Bn., 4th ADA; Staff Sgt. Gerardo C. Ramon, Battery B, 1st Bn., 5th FA and Staff Sgt.

Justin L. Roff, Battery C, 1st Bn., 4th ADA.

After the induction ceremony, there was another ceremony to present the Dr. Mary E. Walker Awards to several military spouses for their outstanding contributions to Fort Riley.

Walker was a volunteer field surgeon during the Civil War. She was captured by confederate troops when she stayed behind to tend to the wounded during a union retreat.

Walker spent four months as a prisoner of war in various prisons before she was exchanged for a confederate surgeon the union had as a prisoner.

Following the war, President Andrew Johnson awarded Dr. Walker the Medal of Honor. Today, she remains on record as the sole female recipient of the Medal of Honor.

The recipients of the Walker award were: Betty W. Terry, nominated by the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Debra K. Tinsley, nominated by the 300th Military Police Company.

## Suicide permanent answer to temporary problem

By Michael Watson  
Staff writer

Suicide is a permanent fix to a temporary problem.

But it should not be the answer to any problem, said Dr. (Maj.) William Keppler III, chief of the Department of Behavioral Health, Irwin Army Community Hospital. However, 13 of every 100,000 people in the Department of Defense think it is, according to statistics Keppler collected and researched in 2002. It is important to know that when people are feeling stress, help is available.

"If you are feeling stressed and have thoughts of suicide, come to the emergency room," Keppler said. "We are here 24/7. Just walk in the emergency room door any time, and there will be someone to talk to."

He said people with thoughts of death are not alone - the department talks to people with thoughts of suicide two or three nights each week. The most important thing is that these people get help.

One myth is that asking a person if they are contemplating suicide would actually give them the idea, where they would not have thought of it before, Keppler said. However, he said, that is absolutely false.

"Don't ignore the warning signs," he said. "If you know someone with thoughts of suicide, make it known. You need to be comfortable enough to ask them if they are okay, and ask them to get help."

One thing that has been reported is that people think suicide thoughts and attempts reported to a chaplain or the Department of Behavioral Health would be a kiss of death to their career, Keppler said.

"There is a limit to confidentiality," he said. "If there is a threat of imminent harm, there is an obligation to report it to the commander. However, soldiers can remain on active duty - they would just be a little healthier after getting help."

Keppler said there are three approaches to getting help.

One is biochemical - there is a chemical imbalance and treatment is a neural medication.

Another is psychology - people learn their buttons and how they are pushed and the treatment is therapy.

The third is environmental - environment provides stress and the treatment is stress management or medication.

Keppler said the biggest predictor of future behavior is past behavior. In the Army, he said that behavior has not changed in years.

Looking at people with suicides in the past, he said the profile for a typical person that commits suicide is a single white male in his early 20s. While there are many stresses that cause a person to be unhappy, the biggest reason people want to end their life is because of a broken relationship; they receive a Dear John or Dear Jane letter, Keppler said.

Regardless of that profile, he said women are still three times more likely to attempt suicide.

"Women are much more likely to attempt suicide. Men are more likely to complete suicide," he said. "Women tend to overdose or cut their wrists - less lethal means, and they are reversible. Men use a shotgun, and that is not reversible."

Chap.(Maj.) James Paulson, Family Life Ministries chaplain, said people with a plan for how

they would carry out their suicide are at the highest risk of actually completing the attempt. Paulson has been a battalion chaplain, and he said he has seen soldiers with the warning signs. Although it is a tough question to ask, people should not ignore the indicators of suicide, he said.

"The first time I had to ask someone if they were thinking of suicide it was an awkward question," Paulson said. "It is still an awkward question, but it is very necessary. If you see something harmful happening, you have to ask them how they are feeling. Sometimes they say they are thinking about it, and other times they say no."

He said one important note is that eight of 10 people who complete a suicide had given somebody some sort of indication. They might not have told somebody directly, but they gave some sort of signal.

Paulson said he agrees that suicide is a permanent fix to a temporary problem, and it is not the answer to any problem regardless of the stress level.

In the Army, there is also potential harm if any soldier, and especially leaders, humiliate or scapegoat a soldier for asking for help when stressed or suicidal, he said.

"The Army is a hoah, hoah society, and soldiers do not want to show a sign of weakness," Paulson said. "If we humiliate or harass soldiers who ask for help, we create an environment where it is not safe to ask for help."

In that way, he said everyone on post affects their peers who have thoughts of suicide, and that is why it is important for people to get help for people who are stressed or suicidal, instead of

making them feel like outcasts and ashamed to ask for it. "Current research shows that in units where the leadership climate makes it unsafe to ask for help, suicides go up," Paulson said.

"As a person of faith, suicide is never the right answer," Paulson said. "I believe in God, and I believe in hope."

### Contact information:

Call 911  
Help Line: 239-HELP  
Mental Health: 239-7291  
Behavior Health: 239-7208

### Warning signs:

- relationship breakups
- appears depressed, sad
- talks about death and wanting to die
- changes in behavior, appearance, mood
- experiences significant loss
- deliberately injures self
- giving away possessions
- changes in sleeping habits, too much or none
- lacks energy

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## Retired Sergeant Major of the Army visits post

By Kim Levine  
Staff Writer

Sgt. Maj. of the Army (Ret.) Richard A. Kidd made his rounds at Fort Riley Feb. 19 and 20 before attending the Sergeant Audie Murphy Induction ceremony held Feb. 20.

During his tour of Fort Riley, Kidd visited with members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, attended a Command Briefing and stopped by the Public Affairs television studio for an interview.

Kidd said he thinks the Army is doing a great job now in comparison to when he was active, with soldiers being better trained, equipped and paid. He said soldiers have an overall better quality of life now.

Kidd also said he was impressed with Fort Riley. "Fort Riley is just a fantastic post," he said. "There are a lot of facilities here, a great place to serve, and the troops here are doing a great job."

Since his retirement in 1995, Kidd has worked his way up at Government Employees Insurance Company, and is now the assistant vice president of military services. He said that his military experience taught him leadership, management, supervision and self-discipline, which he took with him into his civilian career. But even in civilian life, Kidd said he wants to remain linked with the Armed Forces.

"That's my whole purpose in life, to stay connected with the military, which I love."

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# Korea 50 years ago - Chinese wipe out patrols near T-Bone Hill

By Jim Caldwell  
Army News Service

Ground fighting, though still confined in scope, was deadly for both sides 50 years ago this week in Korea, as the Chinese reacted savagely to U.N. incursions.

Feb. 20-25, 1953 — two Chinese companies are slipping along the sides of T-Bone Hill in the I Corps western front. Their goal is to attack Outpost Eerie, but they run into an ambush patrol from the 7th Infantry Division.

The 17th Infantry Regiment rushes reinforcements up to help the patrol. A platoon of tanks comes forward to lay down screening fire so wounded and dead can be evacuated.

Every member of the patrol is wounded or killed, but their actions give their fellow soldiers enough time to react. They throw back the Chinese and prevent a battalion-sized attack on Outposts Eerie and Arsenal.

Three days later, a tank-infantry patrol in the 1st Marine Division front is attacked and surrounded near Hill 90, two miles east of Panmunjom. A reinforcing platoon arrives to help the marines break out of the circle, but they have to fight man-to-man to make it back to the main line of resistance, or MLR.

On Feb. 24, a 7th ID patrol is pounced on by a Chinese company a mile and half northeast of Outpost Eerie. Before the Americans can disengage and pull back, all of them have become casualties.

A Marine patrol leaves the MLR on Feb. 25 to capture a prisoner on Hill Detroit, about a mile southwest of the Hook. They run into a reinforced Chinese company. The marines use flamethrowers to force the enemy out of caves and bunkers where they take cover. Then both sides engage in a deadly 45-minute fire-fight before the marines can disengage.

In the air, allied planes hit supply and communications facilities at Sinuiju and Manpojin on the Yalu River Feb. 20-21. Then bad weather settles in the next three days.

On Feb. 25, U.N. aircraft hit the same kinds of targets at Sakchu, near the other two towns on the Yalu.

The Air Force reports Feb. 21 that over the past seven days, F-86 Sabrejet pilots shot down 17 MiG-15s, against the loss of one

F-86 in aerial combat. Two F-84s are shot down by groundfire over the same period.

Feb. 22 — The U.N. Command announces that three American soldiers were killed and five wounded when a Navy pilot in a burning plane released his ordnance Feb. 2 before he crashed landed the plane. No word is given about whether the pilot survived.

Feb. 23 — Communist team members at Panmunjom claim



that since truce talks began in 1951, nine U.N. bombing missions have hit POW camps holding U.N. personnel. They resulted in 39 prisoners killed, 157 wounded.

Feb. 25 — The Defense Department announces that through Feb. 20, American casualties in Korea are 130,321, including 22,944 dead.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower tells reporters that he is willing to meet with Soviet Premier Josef Stalin at any suitable place if there's a chance it would improve chances for peace. By "suitable place" Eisenhower means some site that's maybe halfway between the capital cities, not just anyplace in the world.

Congressmen generally laud the president's stand, but Senator Pat McCarran (D-Nev.) expresses skepticism about the Soviet leader. "We've met with Stalin before, but we always seem to come out loser," he said.

Also on Feb. 25, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Henry Cabot Lodge delivers a 10-point charge that the Soviet Union is supplying weapons to the communists in Korea. The 10 points that refute the Soviet's "ostrich"-like denials that they do supply China and North Korea are:

1. Russia "instigated the original aggression" by arming and training the North Koreans to use tanks, aircraft, artillery and other

current weapons.

2. After the North Koreans were almost destroyed in 1950, they came back "almost completely equipped with weapons of Soviet manufacture."
3. There is a "constant and steady" stream of Soviet equipment to Korea.
4. When the Chinese entered the war they only had light equipment, but now have "heavy equipment supplied by the Soviet Union."
5. Soviet-made mines are strewn in the waters surrounding North Korea.
6. MiG-15s and other combat planes flown by the North Koreans and Chinese were "manufactured and supplied by the Soviet Union."
7. "A new type of Soviet plane, the IL-28 (is) now part of the air forces of communist aggressors in Korea."
8. Despite the loss of many planes, the enemy air forces continued to grow to "some 2,500 aircraft, of which half are jets, all manufactured and supplied by the Soviet Union."
9. The USSR "provides the replacements for these aircraft which U.N. forces shoot down over Korea."
10. Antiaircraft guns in North Korea, many radar-controlled, "are of Soviet origin."

Lodge says Soviet leaders are "so bemused by their own propaganda" that denies their role in Korea "that they do not recognize the extent to which world opinion holds them responsible for aiding and abetting this great crime against the peace of the world."


Other developments on Feb. 25 are:

Foreign ministers from the six countries that will make up the European Defense Community announce that they will each ask their parliaments for quick ratification of the EDC treaty. The countries are Italy, West Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Charles de Gaulle says at a news conference in Paris that France should pull out of the EDC to keep foreigners from controlling French forces, and the EDC will permit a resurgence of Germany. He prefers the method used in World War II in which each nation controlled its own forces but obeyed a supranational command authority.

Fort Riley continues to be a Korean War Commemorative Community through 2003.

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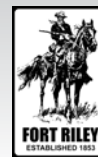




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6:30 a.m. .... In Step  
8 a.m. .... In Step  
Noon .... In Step  
6 p.m. .... In Step  
10 p.m. .... In Step

# Fort Riley Community



February 28, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

Page 9



Elaine Powell-Rich and husband, Pvt. 2 Brian Rich help each other cut their mats at the Arts and Crafts center.

## Frame your photos personally, with style

By Kim Levine  
Staff Writer

Capt. Sean Tu, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, finished a special project recently. The project, which Tu completed in his off-duty time, will be a gesture of appreciation for a soldier in his unit who will be leaving the Army soon.

"We spent four months in Kuwait and took these fun pictures in our free time," explained Tu. He decided to frame the pictures, with the help of the Fort Riley's Arts and Crafts Center. Tu also wrote a personal note to the soldier on the back of the photos. "It's just a little token of my appreciation for him and a good-bye gift."

Tu said he uses the Arts and Crafts Center regularly for his custom-framing projects. "I took the matting and framing class

here about 3 years ago, and I have been doing it ever since."

While the prices are much cheaper to frame your own projects, Tu declared that the real benefit of using the center and creating your own pieces is knowing that you did it yourself.

New patrons to the Arts and Crafts Center, Elaine Powell-Rich and her husband, Pvt. 2 Brian Rich, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, are relatively new to Fort Riley. Since they have been here, Elaine said she has had lots of time on her own and was looking for something new to do.

"Between him being in the field and all that, I have had lots of spare time," said Powell-Rich. She said she has spent her time cross-stitching several projects, and now she wants to learn how to mat and frame them. As a first



Maj. Bill Kloeckner practices cutting and measuring his mat for his "sample practice piece."

See Framing Page 10

## House Watch checks homes when you can't

By Kim Levine  
Staff Writer

People in a community can be an extra set of eyes to help watch over each other and prevent crimes from occurring, said Police Capt. William Rich, head of the Community Involvement Division, Junction City Police Department.

A Neighborhood Watch program serves this purpose, said Rich. A Neighborhood Watch is a program set up within a community to assist law enforcement agencies and protect residents against crimes within a neighborhood.

"It's an exchange of information," said Rich. A community

selects a leader of the program, who will then organize and conduct meetings for neighbors to meet each other and learn about each other. This leader is called the block captain.

"What you try to strive for is to know what's normal in your neighborhood," explained Rich. Neighbors want to learn what is normal, so that they can identify what is unusual.

Rich said the community generally meets once a month, and by knowing each other's habits, they more easily spot suspicious activity taking place in their area.

Neighborhood Watch programs are often connected with or sponsored by local police departments.

Police officers can attend the meetings and teach the communities about what to look for and how to handle any situations that may arise. Rich explained that the relationship also allows the police departments to get any information that they may have about crime in that area to the citizens.

"Rather than just a police duty, now it's all of our responsibility to fight crime," said Rich.

Aside from providing an extra set of eyes, neighborhood watches also allow residents to meet and form a sense of community and a feeling of belonging. This idea of community, in turn, lessens fear, explained Rich. This is key in communities that change often, such as Fort Riley, he said.

"It might be even more important in a transient population to get together once a month so that you get to know the person that just rotated into quarters," said

Rich.

While Fort Riley does not have a Neighborhood Watch program set up that corresponds with the military police, the organization of the communities on post acts as a similar program, said Sgt. 1st Class Russell Northrup, station commander, 523rd Military Police Detachment. The mayors act as the block captains.

Similar to the Neighborhood Watch program, the post has the House Watch program, which is set up to give people a sense of security. The House Watch program is a home security effort in which the military police will conduct physical checks of quarters of residents who are temporarily gone.

On Fort Riley, the House Watch program is available and free of charge to all personnel residing in houses on post, Northrup explained. To sign up for the program, residents need to either call or visit the MP desk and request a house watch. They will then fill out an information worksheet listing a point of contact here, any contact information where they will be and special instructions on their house. They will also give the dates they will be gone and information on vehicles left at the house. Northrup said the MP's conduct two checks on the houses per night, one before midnight and one after.

The checks include making sure doors are locked, windows are closed and no physical damage has been done.

In case of any emergencies or problems, the MP's use the information sheet to contact the homeowners or their points of contact. The Fort Riley program sets no time limits as to how long they will watch residents' houses while they are away, Northrup said, and people can extend the time by calling the MP desk. "You can't pay for this kind of security."

Northrup suggests that anyone leaving their home unattended for any length of time use the program to gain peace of mind in knowing that their house is taken care of while they are away. "It's not a cover-all, but an assistant to keeping your house from being broken into," said Northrup.

For more information or to sign up for the Fort Riley House Watch, call the MPs at 239-8915.

## Life in the Army: Couples work together, give support to one another

By Jamie Bender  
Staff Writer

Soldiers have chosen to leave civilian life behind and embark on the adventure that is the Army life.

For married soldiers, the Army experience becomes an adventure with challenges and rewards for their spouses as well.

For 2nd Lt. Steve Bjorkman, battalion

signal officer for 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, and his wife, Adrienne, the Army has been somewhat different than what they expected.

Steve has been in the Army for slightly more than one year, and he and Adrienne have been married for almost three years.

"We met at Brigham Young University where we were both finance majors," Steve said. "I was in the Reserve Officers

Training Corps and graduated with a commission in December of 2001. ROTC didn't tell me everything about the Army. I didn't know about things like Staff Duty and field training," he said.

"Not even counting deployment, it's not a 9 to 5 job," said Adrienne. "We didn't really realize that there were more responsibilities than just the day to day job."

Even with the unexpected aspects of military life, Steve and Adrienne enjoy their lifestyle in the Army.

"I love what I'm doing. My job is very satisfying," said Steve. "I like that I can come home at lunchtime and see my girls during the day. With another job, that's something I might not be able to do."

"I enjoy living on post," said Adrienne. "The communities and resources available are great. With the classes and support groups out there, there is no excuse to be bored."

While the Bjorkmans married knowing they would be an Army family, some couples make that decision after the wedding.

Sgt. Michael King, tank systems mechanic for 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, and his wife, Joy, experienced life outside the Army for a few years before Michael joined.

"Michael joining the Army was a decision we made together," said Joy. "After a recruiter came to the house, we talked

about our options. We decided it would be a more stable life for our children."

Michael had some experience in the civilian work force before joining the Army. He worked as a diesel mechanic. Michael said he appreciates the stability of his Army job.

"The biggest difference between work in the Army and a civilian job is that if

Exchange and the hospital right there. You are only six or seven minutes away from work. And, you don't have to worry about the electricity or the water being turned off because the bill hasn't been paid."

Some soldiers decide to marry after serving in the Army for a while.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Walker, a tankerman with 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, has experienced life as a single soldier as well as a married soldier.

Kevin has been in the Army for more than 15 years. He joined at the age of 19 and spent four years as a single soldier before getting married.

"As a single soldier you look at things differently," he said. "You tend to take more risks. Once you're married, you start thinking about how this will affect your family."

For someone just leaving home, Kevin said he feels the Army is a good choice as a way of life.

"In the Army, you have a kind of safety net," he explained. "If you make a bad decision, the Army is there to help you out with programs like AER (Army Emergency Relief). As a civilian, you don't have that to fall back on."

After being divorced for some time, Kevin met his new wife, Patti, on the Internet.

See Army Live Page 10



Second Lt. Steve Bjorkman and his wife, Adrienne, play with their twin daughters during Bjorkman's lunch hour.



Photo Illustration/Watson

you are sick in the Army, you know you will still get paid and still have a job when you get back," said Michael.

"Life before the Army was hard," said Joy. "We joke about it now. We would literally have 20 dollars for groceries sometimes. We always came up with the rent somehow, but we didn't have anything to fall back on."

Since Michael joined the Army, the Kings have found the security they were looking for.

"Living on post is one of the best parts of being in the Army," said Michael. "You have the Commissary and the Post

# Fort Riley Elementary hosts living wax museum of historical figures



Taylor Livick, second grader, Fort Riley Elementary, gives a brief biography on Laura Ingalls Wilder to a fellow student. Livick dressed up like Wilder during a "wax museum" program in the school's library.

By Kim Levine  
Staff Writer

The students in the second grade classes at Fort Riley Elementary School found a fun and interesting way to learn about non-fictional books and famous people.

On Feb. 18 and 19, the classes hosted a wax museum in the school library. Each student chose a famous historical figure from a non-fictional book, wrote a script and then portrayed that person as parents, teachers and other students visited their spot in the museum.

Leah Call, second grade teacher, said the students prepared for the event for about one month, and each class presented for 30-40 minutes.

Several characters were depicted, including George Washington, Henry Ford, Rosa Parks and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Call said the program had several benefits.

It helped to spark an interest in non-fiction books, and it got the parents involved with the children's schoolwork, she said.

"It also helped the kids talk in front of other people," said Call. And, she added, most of the students had never checked out books from the biography section

of the library before the project. Call said the wax museum was an overall success. And, to maintain the interest in learning about non-fictional books, the classes' next project will be an animal fair.



Amelia Earhart, Haley Benson, second grader, Fort Riley Elementary, tells Tanner Manosa about Amelia's life.

## Framing continued from page 9

step, the couple attended a framing class at the center.

The Arts and Crafts Center offers the matting and framing class as one of a variety of instructional courses taught at the center. The class is held every other Tuesday, and is a one night, 3-hour course, held in the matting and framing shop. During the class, attendees learn about the products and materials offered at the shop, how to choose colors of mats, measurements for artwork and other basic need-to-know information about how to custom-frame artwork. Attendees also practice measuring and cutting mat boards and foam core, and they learn how to assemble artwork into frames. At the end of

the class, each person leaves with his or her first "sample practice piece," which is cut to fit a 5x7 picture or piece of art. The class is taught by Marilyn Paras, who has been teaching matting and framing and wood-working at Fort Riley for over 20 years. Paras said she wants to educate everyone about the conservation and preservation of artwork.

"The goal of this class is to: first, make sure you don't get ripped off and second, help you feel comfortable using the shop," explained Paras. "You are framing for the quality and conservation of your pieces."

Paras said she enjoys helping people preserve their art and wants people to ask if they have

questions. She said that she likes when people come back to visit the shop, and each new visitor becomes a part of their family.

The Arts and Crafts Center offers a variety of materials that can be used for matting and framing artwork, including four different types of glass, a huge selection of mat colors and several different styles of frames. Shadow-box frames for 3-dimensional items are also available. Patrons can specialize their projects by choosing all of the materials they will use, and the prices are cheaper than having the project assembled for them elsewhere.

Paras said people frame a variety of artwork at the center, including photographs, certifi-

cates, guidons, paintings and other valuable memorabilia.

Maj. Bill Kloeckner, 6025th Garrison Support Unit, said his first project is going to be framing a pencil drawing of several buildings in New Orleans. Powell-Rich said she has cross-stitched several dog pictures and wants to frame those to hang in her house. Tu said he will next work on framing a very old guidon.

Some projects can be completed in an hour, while others take much longer, explained Paras. Before using the matting and framing shop though, patrons must have taken the class.

For more information or to sign up for classes, call the Arts and Crafts center, 239-9205.

## Combined Scholarships now available

Fort Riley Combined Scholarships are now available for spouses, graduating high school seniors and college students of any active duty, retired or deceased military member from the Fort Riley community. Scholarships will be awarded for undergraduate college programs and vocational schooling. Applications may be picked up at the Junction City, St. Francis Xavier or Manhattan High School guidance counselor's offices. They are also available at the Fort Riley Thrift Shop, The Shoppe, Library, Education Center and Soldier and Family Support Center.

The application deadline is April 8. For more information, contact Dee Hayhurst at 587-1933, or visit the Combined Scholarship website at [www.ftrileyscholar.com](http://www.ftrileyscholar.com)

## Guitar Player Needed

The Normandy Chapel Contemporary Protestant Service is looking for a lead guitar player for the praise band. They play contemporary Christian music at the service that meets on Sundays at 11 a.m. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. If interested, call Chap. (Maj.) James Paulson, 239-3436.

## Army Life continued from page 9

Patti had been a single mother for four years and had just moved to Fort Collins.

"A girl friend had come to see me. She said, 'You need to meet someone,'" said Patti. "I didn't go to bars because I was a single mom. One night I was bored and lonely, and I sat down on the computer and got on the Internet. I saw a picture of him in his Battle Dress Uniform and I knew he was for me. We e-mailed each other and met a month later. Six months later we were married."

Kevin and Patti have faced the challenges of military life together.

"It is hard to try to assist my wife," said Kevin. "She will bend over backwards to do anything that I need. The military is very demanding and it's hard to reciprocate. Whenever I can, I try to help her out."

"For me, the hard part is not understanding why, when he is supposed to be home at 5:30, he doesn't come home until 8. That is a difficult one for me," said Patti. "Also, when one of his soldiers gets in trouble and we get that phone call in the middle of the night, it's hard to deal with."

Still newly weds, the Walkers have only made one move so far. While being separated from her family may be difficult, Patti said her security is with her husband. "Anywhere he takes me is home," she said.

The dual military marriage is another aspect of Army life that many couples share.

While some couples meet as soldiers, others make the decision to join their spouse in military service.

Staff Sgt. Gary Stevens, 1st Bn., 34th AR, and his wife, Sgt. Monique Stevens, 15th Personnel Service Battalion are one such couple.

Monique joined the Reserves at 17 and left for basic training and Advanced Individual Training during her senior year of high school. While she was gone, Gary enlisted in the Army as active duty. They were married soon after.

After serving two years in the Reserves, Monique went into the Inactive Ready Reserves and went to Fort Drum as a military spouse

with her husband. When she arrived at Fort Riley, Monique had been a military spouse for two years. At that time had several reasons to join her husband on active duty.

"I was tired of having to look for a job every time we moved," she said. "I realized that working at the mall was not what I wanted to do with my life. When I couldn't find work when we first got here, I started to get depressed. I wondered where my personal rewards were going to come from."

Active duty has helped Monique find those personal rewards.

"We both re-enlisted for the college option. I am now finishing the last three semester hours of my Associates Degree. That is a very rewarding thing for me. I also feel very fulfilled knowing that I am contributing financially to our household," she said.

Being married to another soldier has its own rewards. "We have a better understanding of the lifestyle and the typical gripes of a soldier," said Gary.

"As much as I thought I understood when we lived at Fort Drum, just because I had been through basic and AIT, I didn't really," said Monique. "There are a lot of times that I find myself saying, 'I'm sorry I didn't understand why you weren't home on time, and I'm sorry I didn't understand why you didn't call to tell me you weren't going to be home on time. I didn't understand why

you were stressed out when you got home."

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of four stories on Life in the Army. Read next week's Fort Riley Post for the third story in the series, Growing up Army.

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# Fort Riley Sports

February 28, 2003

America's Warfighting Center

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## Soldiers face-off at racquetball tournament

By Michael Watson  
Staff writer

The Battalion Racquetball Championship was decided with a

teeth-gritting tiebreaker last weekend. Five athletes hit the courts at King Field House Saturday, vying for the title. But early in the first

round, it was easy to spot who would duke it out in the finals - Sgt. 1st Class Leonard Williams, 125th Forward Support Battalion, and Staff Sgt. James Parry, 129th Transportation Company.

Both won their first matches convincingly. Williams beat Sgt. Scott Gadbois, 70th Engineer Battalion, 15-2, 15-0, and Parry beat Sgt. Jason Hetrick, 70th Eng. Bn., 15-0, 15-1.

The first round was easy. Now, this guy is going to make me run," Williams said, after hearing about Parry's victory. "Hopefully my cold and I can hold tight."

The points were fast and furious, and serves changed hands every volley at times, but Williams bested Parry the first match, 15-6.

Then, Parry evened the score in the second match, winning 15-8, to send the championship into a tiebreaker.

That final bout was so heated

that the athletes took a break at 5-2, in favor of Williams, to catch their breaths.

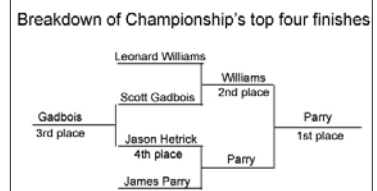
The tiebreaker was a match to 11 points, so Parry was down, but not out. He just needed to find a groove and score some points. He did, surging with a comeback attack to win 11-10.

Williams led Parry to the very end. He just couldn't finish him off.

"I shouldn't have let you back in," Williams said to Parry after the match. "I had you, and then you changed your serve."

"I don't like losing, but I don't mind it if I play well, and I played decent. It was a great match, and it will get me prepared for tournaments coming up in Wichita and Overland Park. I just love to play."

Top three teams in the competition were: First, 129th Transportation Company, second, 70th Engineer Battalion and third, 125th Forward Support Battalion.



Sgt. First Class Leonard Williams, 125th Forward Support Battalion, hits the ball in the Battalion Racquetball Championship Saturday. Staff Sgt. James Parry, 129th Transportation Company, gets in position for the return.

## Regulations in effect for privately owned weapons

By Nicole Matlich  
PMO

Before you rush out to try that new shotgun or air rifle, be aware that special regulations do affect the ownership and the use of these items on Fort Riley.

Fort Riley Regulation 190-1 requires that all weapons that are capable of firing a projectile, using either an explosive or compressed charge, be registered on post. This is to include shotguns, rifles, handguns, BB and pellet guns and even paintball guns. Soldiers can register them through

their unit commander, and civilians can get theirs registered at the Provost Marshal's Office. Either way is pretty fast and easy. Bring only your weapon's serial number, make, model and caliber or gauge to either place, and in a few minutes they can be registered. Do not bring the weapon with you!

Target practice on Fort Riley with any privately owned weapon is unauthorized unless it is in a designated area. These areas are the Privately Owned Weapons range (contact Outdoor Rec. for a schedule), the area behind the Outdoor Recreation Center

(shooting blue rock or archery by appointment) and the paintball gun area near the Outdoor Recreation Center (open only for paintball guns by appointment). You must check schedules for these areas and make certain that your activity is authorized for the time that you are there.

It is unlawful to target practice or "sight in" with any privately owned weapon outside of one of these designated areas on post.

Fort Riley also has special regulations and seasons for hunting. A Kansas State Hunting Permit and a Fort Riley Permit are required to hunt on post. In addition

to these permits, big game tags, waterfowl stamps and other licenses or permits may be applicable to your pursuits.

It is very important that you contact personnel at the Outdoor Recreation Center, building 9011, or the Directorate of Environment and Safety, Conservation Center, building 1020, to inquire about Kansas and Fort Riley requirements for the outdoor activity that you wish to pursue.

Remember, most of the special regulations that are in effect on Fort Riley are designed to protect the most valuable resource the post has....the troops.

## Armor team beats Signal in basketball game

By Michael Watson  
Staff writer

It wasn't an easy win, but the 1st Battalion, 13th Armor got the job done, 52-42.

The team fell behind early, and it looked like it would be a long day on the court.

Their opponent, the 566th Signal Company, had hot hands to

start the game, and the 1st Bn., 13th Armor team wasn't controlling the ball and wasn't making shots. Armor trailed most of the first half.

But they got things rolling and took the lead from the 566th Signal, 27-23, at half time.

"For awhile, it didn't look like it was going to be a good game," SPC. Vincent Mitchell, 1st Bn., 13th AR, said after the game. "I

couldn't buy a bucket today. But we put enough points on the board to get the win."

The team almost didn't earn the win, because they were very close to a forfeit.

Four members of the team were present when the buzzer sounded for game time, but the fifth player showed up just in time.

That made it tough on the

Armor team, who did not have a deep bench to give players a chance to take a breather. Signal had three extra men on the bench as substitutes.

Mitchell said the shallow bench wasn't a problem though.

"It really wasn't a factor. We were tired, but we really weren't running the ball. So there wasn't a reason for anybody to have to leave the court to recoup."

## Basketball Standings as of Feb. 24

Wins-Losses	
<b>Southern League</b>	
HHC, 2/70 AR	11-0
HHC, 24 ID	10-2
977 MP	9-2
Echo Det., 15th PSB	8-4
HHC, 1-16 INF	7-2
HHC, 1st BDE	7-6
MEDDAC	6-4
568 CSE	4-6
331 Signal	4-7
USAG, 24 ID	4-8
82nd Medical Det.	3-10
C, 4-3 ADA	2-7
300th MP	1-9
1st Finance Battalion	1-10
<b>Western League</b>	
HHC, 1-34 AR	11-1
A, 2-34 AR	9-1
B, 1-5 FA	8-4
A, 1st EN	7-2
HHC, 1st EN	6-4
A, 1-34 AR	6-6
D, 1-5 FA	5-5
D TRP, 4th CAV	5-6
SVC, 1-5 FA	5-7
C, 2-34 AR	4-7
A, 1/161 FA	4-8
HHC, 1-5 FA	3-7
B, 1st EN	3-8
C, 1-34 AR	1-10
<b>Eastern League</b>	
HHC, 1-13 AR	5-0
A, 70 EN	4-0
696 Signal	3-1
1st Maint. Co.	3-2
24th Trans.	3-2
C, 4-1 FA	3-2
B, 4-1 FA	3-3
HHC, 4-1 FA	2-1
A, 1-13 AR	2-3
C, 70 EN	1-3
A, 4-1 FA	1-4
172nd Chem.	1-5
C, 1-4 ADA	0-4

## Volleyball, soccer deadlines approaching

By Michael Watson  
Staff writer

Battalions wanting to compete in soccer or volleyball on post need to turn rosters in immediately.

The deadline has passed, but the Sports Office will take on more teams until March 7, according to Barry Sunstrom, intramural coordinator. The office needs the unit roster and commander's letter of intent to play, including military commitments, to avoid scheduling conflicts before that deadline.

"We don't have a lot of teams in either the men's or women's brackets in these sports," Sunstrom said. "I will be real surprised if we get eight in each. But, we have a few teams wanting to play, so we'll do something."

But Sunstrom said more teams are needed.

The soccer league will play games from March 17 through May 12. Only 18 players from the roster may suit up for any one game, with 11 playing on the field, Sunstrom said.

The volleyball league will have games from March 10 through April 28. Only 12 players from the roster may suit up for any one game, with six players playing on the court.

Each team must submit a manning roster for their unit, and under no circumstance may a team use a player not on the manning roster, Sunstrom said.

## Controlled burns can be mesmerizing, helpful to wildlife, plants on prairie

By Gibran Suleiman  
DES Biologist

One of the unique land management prescriptions on Fort Riley is the frequent amount of prescribed burning that occurs in the training areas.

Watching a strong fire sweep across the prairie is a beautiful and mesmerizing sight. However, there is much more than beauty occurring when the prairie burns. Have you ever wondered why the grasses are set a blaze and how fire changes the prairie it consumes?

Without fire, the prairie community begins to change, as a dense layer of litter forms on the surface. The litter layer is the accumulation of dead plant material from past years growth that hasn't yet decomposed. The litter layer acts like a large insulating blanket to the soil below it, which results in significant changes to the microclimate on the soil surface and

into the ground. Sunlight becomes a limiting factor in an unburned prairie, and that limits productivity. The litter layer also results in cooler soil and a higher soil moisture content. The cooler temperatures slow the initial growth rates of plants.

When an emerging plant shoot breaks the soil on an unburned prairie, it enters a dark environment. This is a critical time of growth for grasses, and the presence of dead biomass adversely affects the ability of grasses to grow. The low levels of light can have an effect for up to two months, until the grass shoot finally penetrates through the litter layer. Up to 60 percent of the energy potential has been documented to be lost in the first month due to low light levels from overhead layers of litter. Although grasses are still able to grow, they do not have near the vigor in an unburned prairie as they would normally have if there weren't the

thick litter layer present.

Wildlife is affected by the lack of fire, too. In the short term, certain ground nesting birds, like the Henslow's spar-

### On the Wildside: News About Nature

row, thrive in 2 to 3-year-old accumulation, but begin to decline beyond that. Long term lack of fire results in a subtle conversion to woody plants, particularly cedars. In the absence of fire, a prairie might be completely converted to wood in a matter of decades. What took nature thousands of years to build can be lost in a relatively short time.

A prairie is best maintained by fire and proper grazing. From a distance, it is a uniform carpet of green, dominated by prairie grasses and a lack of woody vegetation. Up close, the diversity of the prairie is striking with a mixture of wildflowers and other forbs.

The prairie fires that are so important to its maintenance, engage a grassland as it volatilizes nitrogen into the air. The more frequently an area is burned, the less nitrogen is available in the soil. The native prairie grasses are able to thrive in soils with low nitrogen,

where as many other types of plants are not. Woody vegetation, such as trees, bushes and shrubs, are a minor component in grasslands that are burned frequently for several reasons. The most obvious is from direct mortality. The flammable eastern red cedar tree is a good example of this.

Fire can also destroy aboveground seed banks. Some other factors that work against the woody component in a burned environment are lower nitrogen levels, lower soil moisture and a higher above ground productivity from grasses.

The mechanisms that shape the tallgrass prairie are numerous and compli-

cated. When you change just one variable, such as the suppression of fire, it has an effect on all components of the system.

Unfortunately, thousands and thousands of acres of the tallgrass prairie have been greatly altered by invasion of trees and shrubs due to a lack of burning. Once these woody plants become established, it becomes tremendously difficult to restore the land back to its original condition, and the land no longer offers quality grazing for cattle or provides nesting habitat for grassland birds.

As part of being stewards of the land, Fort Riley attempts to burn the maneuver areas two times out of every five years in order to preserve the grassland ecosystem and maintain a sustainable base for military training.

If you have any questions concerning prescribed burning or any other natural research topics, call the Conservation Division, 239-6211.







## ITR

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office is located in building 6918 (across from the PX). ITR's hours of operation are: Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. For further information, call ITR at 239-5614 or 239-4415. Check out the Department of Army Leisure Travel website at [www.offdutytravel.com](http://www.offdutytravel.com) for more great deals on travel. ITR services and discount attractions tickets available to active duty military, retirees, National Guard, reservists, Department of Army Civilians and family members.

### Spring Break Packaging

It's not too early to start those Spring Break plans. Listed below are some destination packages that are available at military discounts.

#### Branson, Mo.

As one of the top vacation destinations in the country, and approximately six-hour drive

from Fort Riley, Branson offers a wealth of diverse entertainment. Whether your idea of entertainment is being dazzled, spending a day with your family at one of the attractions or finding a great deal at one of the area retailers, Branson is second to none in its scope of exciting activities. Let ITR put together a Spring Break package.

#### Destination California

Want to turn your visit to Southern California into the most fun-filled vacation ever? At Universal Studios Hollywood enjoy all the thrills, magic, stunts and special effects when you take part in your favorite blockbuster movies. It's all the glitz, glamour, action and entertainment of Hollywood, only at the world's largest movie studio and theme park. Experience Disney at Disneyland Resort. Meet memorable Disney characters, discover exclusive attractions and enjoy spectacular entertainment. Eight lands of fantasy and magic bring

smiles to kids of all ages.

#### Florida Bound

Prepare to be awed, inspired, thrilled and enchanted at Walt Disney World. This is, without a doubt, the most magical and incredible time in your life, visiting the world's vacation kingdom. Universal Orlando is two amazing parks, one a working movie studio where the movies come alive, the other an unforgettable journey through unique islands. Each park is filled with once in a lifetime adventures, plus non-stop nightlife that's all within easy walking distance of each other. It's an unbelievable universe of family fun and excitement in one incredible location.

#### Colorado Ski Packages

They've started out the New Year on the right foot with new snow at Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Winter Park! Now that the hustle and

bustle of the holidays is over, it's time to plan a relaxing getaway to the mountains. Whether it's a day at the spa or a day on the slopes, you can be sure to find something at their resorts to help your body unwind. Military discounts available for Colorado lift tickets. Let ITR put together a ski package for you.

#### Local Spring Break ideas?

Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center is located in Hutchinson, and it is quickly becoming the most comprehensive space museum in the world. It is not what you would expect to find on the open prairies of Kansas, and that's the point exactly. From the jaw-dropping Hall of Space Museum and incredible IMAX Dome Theatre to the million-dollar multimedia Planetarium, the Cosmosphere is an all-day, all ages adventure. Hold on tight. You're go for lift-off! How about Science City at the

Union Station in Kansas City? Imagine a city like no other in the world. It is a thriving metropolis that combines adventure, entertainment, discovery and excitement. With four different parts of town containing over 50 interactive environments, you'll find there's something for everyone. Discounts tickets are available through ITR.

#### Snow Creek

If you ever wanted to try the sport of skiing or snowboarding, now is the time! Ski in historical Weston, Mo. located 15 minutes from KCI airport. Snow Creek has 100 percent snowmaking capabilities. Discount snow passes are available through ITR.

#### Sleep to the Slopes

Sleep to the Slopes is the theme of ITRs most popular trip packages. Two, three, and four-day trips are offered most weekends throughout the ski season. The

trip includes transportation on deluxe sleeper motor coach, hotel or condo lodging and lift tickets for each ski day. On the 40-passenger sleeper motor coach, two people face another two people with a table in-between creating a booth.

There are 10 booths on the coach. The seats on this coach convert into bunk beds allowing passengers to lie down horizontally and catch some sleep while driving across Kansas at night. Wake up rested and ready to ski or snowboard the next morning. Call ITR for package prices.

#### Commercial Leisure Travel

ITR now assists you with leisure commercial travel. Make your plans early for better pricing and ticket availability. A computer KIOSK is available at ITR for customer use in booking airline tickets through the Internet or call ITR for assistance in booking your commercial travel.

## Commentary

### Worries over dry eyes enlightens what Army family is all about

My heart is apparently camouflaged from the war against terrorism.

Tears rolled down the cheeks of soldiers and family members recently, as the first Fort Riley soldiers deployed to the Central Command Area of Operations, not knowing where they were going or when they would return. Even those without families showed compassion at the departure.

But while their eyes were flooded from the teary farewell, mine were drier than a Kansas drought. A coworker of mine cried after watching the recent heightened alert on TV, and others were choked up at the site of soldiers saying goodbye to families at the recent deployment ceremonies.

I experienced goose bumps, but I was never choked up during these events.

However, I wonder if deeper emotions would set in with an outbreak of war?

My thoughts at the deployment: When soldiers and their families first arrived at the hangar to say their goodbyes, it never dawned on me that they would be separated from their spouses and children for an extended period of time.

But then I saw the emotional farewells - the big bear hugs and the goodbye kisses - and I imagined how tough it must be to leave one's family. That is something I hope I never have to do, much less leave for an area of higher intensity.

My fiancée, Sarah, gives me a hard

time if I stay at work late and do not make it home for supper. However, these families might not be together at all for months.

So my first thought was respect - not only for the soldiers who put their lives on hold, but also for their families.

Most of the young children cling to their soldier parents, just minutes before loading onto a bus to leave Fort Riley for an unknown period of time. Many of them knew their parent was leaving, and they said they understood why they would not be there to tuck them into bed at night or other activities parents do for their children to show their love.

A few others seemed oblivious to the fact of war, and why shouldn't they. Chil-

dren should not think their parents are leaving to fight in far-off lands.

My grandfather served during the Korean War, 1950-1953, but I never had to cope with a parent leaving for war. If you are a young child, what do you say to something like that, don't go? If you are a parent, how do you emotionally deal with your child asking you to stay?

Because I am a civilian, I cannot fathom the sacrifice that Army families make.

I watched a soldier say goodbye to his wife, whom said he had not spent more than two weeks time with since their wedding day in April.

The soldier also has a daughter who will blow three candles out on her birth-

day cake in April, while he is scheduled to be overseas completing his mission. I can imagine that would be tough, but I will never know exactly how many different directions soldiers' emotions will pull them in the upcoming months.

If my emotions reach the surface during this conflict, somebody please remind me that my heart is nowhere near as burdened by sadness or fear as our soldiers and their families.

My hope is that everyone returns home safely, and the Army families take care of one another. God bless you all.

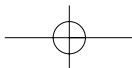
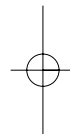
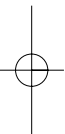
Mike Watson  
Post Staff Writer

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